

Letter from Mr. RIDDLE, United States Agent, to the Secretary of the American Committee.

UNITED STATES OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
May 10, 1851.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose you herewith a list of the names of jurors appointed by me in behalf of the United States. Most of these gentlemen are now here present, ready to attend to the discharge of the responsible duties that will be committed to them. Those who are not here I have been assured are on their way to the Industrial Exhibition, and will be residents in the city long enough to give their attention to the subjects which will be placed before them. Considering the great distance of our country, and the difficulties in the way of obtaining the opinion of your Central Committee upon any subject that requires action here, I feel that the best has been done that was possible in this very difficult and embarrassing matter.

The Exhibition is now fairly in progress. Its success, for so long a time doubtful to its projectors, is no longer a question. These first ten days have dispelled all fears, even in regard to its financial triumph. And then, as a collection of all that is useful and beautiful in the labor of every civilized nation on the globe, it surpasses the expectations of the most sanguine of its friends. It is in itself a Congress of Nations and a record of progress, which, if it mainly relates to material interests and tastes, must have important bearings, through them, on the higher interests of humanity.

That the object of the Central Authority of the United States may be fully attained, I shall now, in addition to the attention I must give to the goods of our contributors, so far and fully acquit myself with the productions of all nations exhibited here that I may make in the end a useful and reliable report. This can be done by a careful and systematic process of observation only, discriminating the really useful from that which is merely novel and temporary in its advantages, and recording from day to day the results which are arrived at, and the really valuable information which is obtained. In doing this I find myself greatly aided by the classification of Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR, to whom have been committed the analysis and generalization of the articles exhibited, in preparation for the labors of the jurors of awards.

According to his principal divisions, of which consist of materials, six of machinery, and twenty of fabricated articles. It has been objected to this classification that it failed to include the fine arts, considered as illustrative of the taste and skill displayed in the productions of human industry; but, so far as this Exhibition is concerned, it seems to me that this supplemental division may be considered as fairly included among the ornamental branches of manufacture, in the large sense in which Dr. Playfair has used the word.

Under materials are comprised, by this classification, not only raw materials, such as mineral ores and native metals, but also prepared materials, such as the pure metals supplied by the processes of metallurgy, and also all the varieties of machinery and instruments used in the processes by which they are obtained. In the sense of the term in which the word is used, materials are subdivided into four classes. The first includes mining, quarrying, metallurgical operations, and mineral products; the second, chemical substances and processes; the third, human food; and the fourth, animal and vegetable substances used in the arts.

In the second branch of the classification adopted, to wit, machinery, although the United States are very far from being adequately represented, they have got in much that has been sent very considerable interest, as you will perceive by the subdivisions made. The term machinery, too, as used, applies not merely to machines properly so called, but to every mechanical agent, great or small, simple or complex, which can be imagined to be interposed between the human hand and any other moving power and the object to which motion and force is to be applied. In this sense, therefore, machinery includes every species of implement and tool. The subdivisions adopted by Dr. Playfair are, first, machines for direct use, such as steam engines, water mills, blast furnaces, and the like; second, manufacturing implements, such as tools of all kinds; third, civil engineering and architecture, such as implements used in hydraulic works, driving apparatus, bridges, &c.; fourth, military and naval engineering; fifth, agriculture and horticulture; and sixth, philosophical, artistic, and professional apparatus.

The last and largest principal division of objects exhibited includes all the finished products of human labor, under the general designation of manufactures. This chief division consists of no less than twenty subdivisions, as follows: 1, cotton; 2, wool; 3, silk; 4, flax and hemp; 5, mixed products; 6, leather and skins; 7, paper, printing, and book-binding; 8, printed fabrics; 9, tapestry, lace, and embroidery; 10, clothing; 11, cutlery; 12, iron; 13, precious metals; 14, glass; 15, porcelain; 16, upholstery; 17, manufactures from mineral substances for decorative architecture; 18, manufactures from animal and vegetable substances for the same purpose; 19, miscellaneous; and 20, the fine arts.

In observing the proportions in which the various nations of the earth have contributed to this collection of the products of human industry, it is, as might be expected, that the several divisions of Europe are the largest and most numerous contributors. I believe it is safe to say, however, that those contributions which come from the greatest distance, and which are more limited in their quantity and variety, present circumstances of more peculiar interest. Thus, for example, to say nothing of our own country, between which and England the facilities of steam navigation have almost annihilated great distance, nothing excites more rational curiosity than the various kinds of exhibits exhibited from remote lands. The birds' nests from the Indian Archipelago, the sharks' fins from China, the beaver from Australia, and various roots from the South Sea Islands, are all examined and studied with interest. So, too, the textile materials and fabrics, the cloth used for clothing in the most remote parts of the globe, the pineapples, and the plantain, and the like, are constant sources of study and gratification.

I have thus alluded to the topics that are presented to the jurors, and which must be treated of in my report, that you may be more fully acquainted with present duties. Attending these duties there are many things that are embarrassing, and upon which I need counsel and many others which are annoying and troublesome. I endeavor, however, so to shape my conduct towards all our contributors, and so to give attention and care to their goods, whether they are present or absent, as that full justice shall be done to them in every point of view. Mr. LAWRENCE, our Minister, is ready at all times to afford me all I need, and from my first arrival I have found in him a confidant as ready and prompt and tireless in his services as though he had been associated in the Commission.

I informed you in a former report that I have been obliged to effect a loan of £1,500 sterling, in order to make such preparations as should carry out the designs of American contributors in sending their goods here, and in covering their expenses. I believe it is safe to say, however, that those contributions which come from the greatest distance, and which are more limited in their quantity and variety, present circumstances of more peculiar interest. Thus, for example, to say nothing of our own country, between which and England the facilities of steam navigation have almost annihilated great distance, nothing excites more rational curiosity than the various kinds of exhibits exhibited from remote lands. The birds' nests from the Indian Archipelago, the sharks' fins from China, the beaver from Australia, and various roots from the South Sea Islands, are all examined and studied with interest. So, too, the textile materials and fabrics, the cloth used for clothing in the most remote parts of the globe, the pineapples, and the plantain, and the like, are constant sources of study and gratification.

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Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
EDWARD RIDDLE.
Hon. J. C. G. KENNEDY, Secretary, &c.

* This list was accidentally omitted to be enclosed with the letter.

MORRIS PROGRESS.—Mr. TAYLOR, one of the Moravian Missionaries sent out from the Salt Lake Valley, writes from Europe that large establishments are fitting out, in London for the city of Salt Lake. One comes out for the purpose of manufacturing broad and other cloths, vestings, merinos, alpines, and other fabrics of all kinds, together with shawls, blouses, flannels, &c. The other establishment, spoken of, comes out for the purpose of manufacturing sugar from the beet root, on the same principle as in France. These will require a great deal of machinery, which it is contemplated to bring out, together with men to work it, the object being to manufacture every thing to be required in the valley, so as not to be necessitated to purchase it elsewhere.

Letter from an English gentleman to his friend in Washington, dated London, May 15, 1851.

My Dear Sir, I will now endeavor to give you a faint idea of the Exhibition; but so vast is its extent and so varied are its commodities that it will be but a poor conception which I can offer. Last Saturday morning the Queen and Prince Albert visited the Exhibition in order to see the exhibitors who were there to explain their goods. The royal party left at 12 o'clock, when the doors were thrown open, and entering the building on the south side, and passing to the centre on the right we beheld the various foreign exhibitors, terminating in the eastern end with the United States, over whose productions a large eagle extends her wings; on the left are the productions of England, her colonies and dependencies. The gallery is likewise apportioned in the same manner; the United States and the other countries occupying the same relative position. Under the transept as we entered are lofty trees in verdant foliage; further on is a bed of shrubs and spring fountains; while in the centre is a crystal fountain showing forth its water, and falling into the basin beneath. The framework of this fountain is of glass, exquisitely cut, and therefore you may form a faint idea of the display there created, whereby the traveller may take his thirst, so if you please, as soon as that Frenchman and the other Chinese have finished, we will take our turn. From east to west the building is devoted to works of great size, such as statues, &c. Amongst the specimens in this way I noticed an oxen, mounted on a horse of proportionate dimensions, in conflict with a lion. This, I believe, is the first of its kind. A little further on there is a large organ of French manufacture; but I cannot continue this category, as I have only been able to make one visit. I will just mention that Powers' Greek Slave is highly thought of. Not having been in the building before, my survey was of a desultory character. Now I am peering into the mysteries of a Hindu palace; then lounging in the bazaar of Persia; then roaming in the wilds of Canada, or walking the streets of New York and Philadelphia. The next moment I am in Portugal helping myself to some snuff, of which there is a large quantity; now I visit Italy, with its graceful productions, and turn to its friend Austria, who, by the way, is well represented in this exhibition. Russia, too, is well represented. The other exhibitors resemble in this, that their places are by no means filled, and the visitor sees a vast waste which reminds him of lands uninhabited. But we cannot stop to moralize; we must press forward, and so eccentric are we in our orbit that we are now in a Chinese bazaar looking upon elegant porcelains, bronzes, and similar objects, and others. But forward is our word; and gliding through the multitude we come to Great Britain, where there seems to be every thing, from a dog cart to a wagon, a bath chair to a carriage of eight, a velocipede to a steam engine. What is that whizzing noise proceeding from yonder? It is machinery worked by steam, and turning out cotton, silk, &c. Again, our eager curiosity not only not to rest, but like the butterfly, we seek other flowers on which to gratify our tastes. Now we are walking in the halls of the middle ages with their fine tapestry and furniture, but which bear somewhat the appearance of a cathedral. Not having yet seen the gallery, we will ascend the steps, and here we find works of great beauty and exquisite finish; they are of a smaller size than those on the basement. These are models of ships, from a 120 gun man-of-war to a jolly-boat. Steamboats, pilot boats, balloons, aerial machines, all close by one another, remind us that we must be travelling; but as we have the good use of our limbs we will go on foot for once, that we may not forget the old-fashioned ways of our forefathers. There is a pistol and musket shop, guns of all sorts, revolvers, and indeed every imaginable article of destruction, as if we were to go to war. What queer beings we are; we keep on glancing at the lighter works of ingenuity from the continent, and now we are in the United States gallery; so if you please we will rest on those nice seats, and fancy ourselves on a settlement in the Far West, or watching active life from a hotel in Broadway. What should we visiters to the World's Fair? If it were for the United States that the first resting place for the weary. 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